AUSTRIAN INFORMATION

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ANNOUNCEMENT: In order to insure immediate attention, requests for additional data about Austria and suggestions for improvements in AUSTRIAN INFORMATION should be addressed directly to Dr. Martin Fuchs, Chief of Information Department, Austrian Consulate General, 683 Fifth Avenue, New York 22, N. Y.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AUSTRIAN PARLIAMENT. In order to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of Representative Government in Austria, the Austrian Parliament met in solemn session on July 9. Addressing the Assembly, Austria's Federal President Dr. Karl Renner, whose name was already closely associated with the history of Austria's First Republic, pointed out that neither one-party government nor revolutions had ever accomplished anything permanent, but had only led to reaction and war. Advocating representative government and constitutional democracy as the best guarantee and the only means of domestic stability and peaceful progress, Dr. Renner said: "During the last century, the Austrian people has witnessed nearly all forms of government from unlimited absolutism to total democracy. In its overwhelming majority it has repudiated all deviations and aberrations, from totalitarian fascism to Communist totalitarianism. It knows today that there is no other form of government assuring stability and peaceful evolution than genuine democracy based upon human rights and self-government. We are looking forward to the day when we will again enjoy full self-determination; but even today we have to act in the spirit of full responsibility for our destiny."

In his address the Federal President also sharply criticized the policy of the Allies of World War I in destroying Austria-Hungary without putting anything adequate in its place. He called the Treaty of St. Germain a tragic step from which all Europe has suffered.

The commemorative session closed with the singing of the National Anthem followed by a cry of "Long live our people! Long live Austria!" from the President of the Assembly, Mr. Leopold Kunschak. His shout drew cheers and applause from the entire Assembly except from the four Communist members of Parliament.

AUSTRIAN PARTICIPATION IN DANUBE CONFERENCE. Dr. Gruber, Minister of Foreign Affairs, has announced the decision of the Austrian Cabinet to accept Yugoslavia's invitation to attend the Danube Conference in an advisory capacity. The Austrian Ambassador to Bulgaria, Dr. Felix Rosini-Rosenberg, will represent his country at the Belgrade discussions on problems of Danube transportation and traffic regulation.

NAZI PERSECUTION OF AUSTRIAN PRIESTS. A recently published book, "National Socialism and the Catholic Church in Austria", lists figures on Nazi persecutions of the Catholic priesthood. According to these figures, 742 priests were jailed, and 7 of these died during imprisonment. Another 110 priests were interned in concentration camps, of whom 20 failed to survive. Fifteen priests were condemned and executed. 250 were deported, and 250 others were subject to fines. 1500 priests were forbidden by the Nazi authorities to preach or conduct classes.

WASHINGTON OFFICE OF AUSTRIAN ERP MISSION. Dr. Ludwig Kleinwaechter, Austrian Minister to the United States, wishes to announce the opening of the Washington office of Austria's ERP Mission, effective Aug. 1. The address will be: Austrian Legation-ERP Mission, 1344 Connecticut Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. Telephone: MIchigan 4447-9.

ECA ALLOCATIONS FOR AUSTRIA. For the third quarter of the year, ECA has allocated a total of 69 million dollars to Austria. Of that sum,

ECA ALLOCATIONS FOR AUSTRIA. For the third quarter of the year, ECA has allocated a total of 69 million dollars to Austria. Of that sum, 59 million dollars are earmarked for purchases in the Western hemisphere and other non-participating countries; 8 million for purchases in the German Bi-zone; and 2 million dollars for purchases in other participating countries.

Large as these funds are, they are unfortunately not sufficient to cover both the necessary imports of food and recovery items for the development of Austrian industry. The Austrian nutrition level is, at present, on a basis which does not permit a practical comparison with any other ECA country, and will have to be increased in order to make possible full utilization of the working power of the nation. Since undernourished labor cannot be expected to produce at full capacity, the improvement of the food supply appears to be an essential part of Austria's industrial recovery program.

CORRECTION. In our previous issue we announced an increase in the standard food ration from 1800 calories per diem to 1900 calories. The increase actually was from 1700 calories to 1800.

PURCHASES OF AMERICAN SURPLUS GOODS BY AUSTRIA. By a contract signed on November 6, 1947, the Austrian Government received a credit of 10 million dollars from the War Assets Administration. This was supplemented with a 500,000 dollar credit from the Export-Import-Bank of Washington for the purpose of paying acquisition costs, packing, crating, insurance and shipment. The Export-Import-Bank reserved the right to approve expenditure of funds under the provisions of the loan.

All items purchased are based upon a requirements list furnished by the Austrian Ministry of Property Control and Economic Planning in Vienna.

The majority of the items purchased are new and in unused condition, for instance machine tools, industrial equipment, raw materials, consumer goods, etc.

On July 17, 1948, Austrian purchases reached the 3 million dollar mark. Further purchases had to be stopped because of lack of funds for payment of more acquisition costs for the remaining portion of War Assets Administration credits.

Due to the establishment of ECA credits the Export-Import-Bank is not authorized to grant an additional loan in order to cover acquisition costs and new funds have to be made available.

All the goods purchased in the East are shipped to the Austrian Pier in Newark, New Jersey; all the goods purchased in the West are shipped to Pier 19 in San Francisco. In both places all incoming goods are inspected, if necessary, repacked and prepared for shipment to Austria via Trieste by chartered steamers.

As of August 31, 1948, according to a Congressional decision, all priorities and preferences in the purchasing of surplus war goods will be discontinued. After that date Austria will be able to participate in the purchase of surplus goods by competitive bidding methods.

BI-LINGUAL SIGNS IN RUSSIAN ZONE. An order issued by the Russian occupation autorities in June 1948, requiring that all road signs and place names in the Muehlviertel district adjoining Czechoslovakia be in both Russian and German, was repealed following a conference between Chancellor Figl and Soviet General Sheltow. Since the order's repeal, however, a number of Russian district commanders have directed that signs in their territories be bi-lingual. Local authorities have protested vigorously against this requirement, pointing to the repeal of the original order, and claiming that relettering all signs to conform to Russian demands is unduly burdensome. Austrian officials feel that such local decrees are probably the result of over-zealousness on the part of the district commanders.

U.N. CHILDREN'S APPEAL DRIVE IN AUSTRIA. A nationwide drive under the auspices of the Austrian League for the United Nations was held from June 15 to July 15. Federal President Karl Renner, Chancellor Leopold Figl and Vice Chancellor Adolf Schaerf in special broadcasts appealed to the people for participation. The drive was further promoted by public concerts (22 were held in Vienna alone on Sunday, June 25), 50 000 posters displayed on the streets, in stores and other public places, and through 6 film productions designed to win

popular support. The Post Office prepared a special postmark to be used on all letters mailed during this period, with the inscription "Help Austria's Children by Helping the U.N.'s Children's Appeal".

ECONOMIC FIGURES FOR APRIL. Employment during April was up 23 000 over March, for a total of 1 879 000 workers employed.

Aluminum production totalled 842 tons for the month, 229% of the 1937 monthly average.

Imports for April had a value of 207 million schillings, while exports totalled 145 million, leaving an import excess of 62 million schillings. The excess of imports over exports was largely accounted for by purchases of fuel from Germany, Poland and Czechoslovakia. Austria showed a favorable trade balance with Italy for the month: exports of lumber, pig iron and finished iron to a value of 24.8 million schillings, against imports of 18,8 million. A large portion of the month's exports went to Switzerland: 22.8 million schillings worth of exports compared to 24.3 million schillings worth of imports from this country. Trade with Great Britain totalled 13.1 million schillings for April.

PRICE REDUCTIONS IN AUSTRIA. According to figures compiled by the Austrian Trade Union Council, price reductions have come about in the following categories since spring of this year: American surplus goods, reductions of from 30% to 50%; electrical industry products, average reductions of 10%, with decreases as high as 25% in some cases; building materials, 6%-12% average, 20%-30% maximum; textile products 8%-10%; machine products 10%-25%; products of the woodworking industry, 3%-15%; mine products 8%-12%; chemical goods 10%-25%; raw and converted paper, 10%-20%; services 5%-20%; food 5%-28%; and transportation, 10-25%.

PRODUCTION FIGURES.

ELECTRICAL GOODS. Production of electrical goods in Austria is currently surpassing the 1937 rate. Light bulbs, for instance, are being manufactured at the rate of about 2 million per month. In view of domestic needs of from 6 million to 10 million bulbs annually, this leaves a sizeable margin for export. Insulated wire production amounts to 2.5 million meters monthly, well in excess of the 1937 rate.

AUTOMOTIVE EQUIPMENT. Prior to the war, the Austrian automotive industry existed on a precarious footing, since it was almost as economical to import trucks and automobiles as to manufacture them. Even so, in 1937 Austria produced 4821 private cars, 1304 trucks and busses, and 8535 motorcycles. Automotive exports in 1937 amounted to 4.2 million schillings, compared to 2.9 million schillings worth of imports. The question of economy has since been resolved by the shortage of foreign exchange, and in 1947 1500 trucks were manufactured at a cost in foreign exchange of 3 million Swiss francs for raw materials, notably rubber, non-ferrous metals, and lacquers. To import these trucks would have cost 37.5 million Swiss francs. There are many Austrian manufacturers engaged in producing automotive parts, and the following concerns are presently making trucks and busses: Austro Fiat makes a 110-HP, 5-ton diesel truck, and electric trucks and busses; Graef & Stift, diesel busses and rail busses which with a trailer carry 110 persons; the Saurerwerke manufacture 125-HP trucks and busses; works at Steyr make a 3-ton, air-cooled, 80-HP truck, a 3.5-ton, water-cooled, 4-cylinder diesel truck of 85-HP, and a 2-cylinder, 26-HP tractor. Prices average 125 000 schillings for a 5-ton diesel truck, or 190 000 schillings for a 100-110-HP diesel bus.

SHOES. Estimated shoe output for 1948 is 1 800 000 pairs of leather shoes. Shoe production is able to proceed at only 40% of capacity, due to the shortage of leather. Some 600 000 snakes-type fabric and rubber shoes will also be produced this year.

ROLLING STOCK REPAIRS. During 1947 1100 steam and electric locomotives and 34 000 freight and passenger cars were repaired in the 5 main shops and the 60 smaller shops of the Austrian Federal Railroad System. Until recently the railroads have concentrated on the minor repairs needed to keep equipment in service. They have now begun a

program of major overhauls. The railroads are now building at Jedlersdorf a large new maintenance shop with a repair capacity of 1700 cars per month.

Europe's heaviest freight car was recently completed at the Simmeringer Waggonfabrik in Vienna. The car, designed to transport giant transformers, has a loading capacity of 180 tons, equal to the capacity of 18 normal-sized European cars.

CUBAN SUGAR BEING REFINED IN AUSTRIA. A sugar refinery at Enns, in the first European postwar cane sugar refining program, had by July 1 converted 18 640 tons of raw Cuban sugar supplied by the U.S. into 17 000 tons of crystalline sugar. To accomplish this, daily capacity was expanded from 180 tons to 310 tons. Austrian refiners expect to continue using Cuban sugar, since sugar beet fields in Eastern Austria are not producing in sufficient quantity.

OIL DISCOVERY PROSPECTS IN AUSTRIA. French occupation authorities have drilled an exploratory oil well in the Dornbirn-Hohenems-Lustenau triangle in the Vorarlberg, long thought by experts to be rich in oil deposits. The results of the drilling have so far not been made public. Preliminary calculations placed the probable depth of the deposits at 1000 or 1500 meters. Oil has already been found just across the nearby Swiss border. If results of the test drilling indicate that full-scale production is justified, industries around Bodensee are expected to benefit greatly.

Geological surveys indicate that the Tyrol, Upper Austria and Styria are also potential oil sources.

AUSTRIAN HIGHWAY RECONSTRUCTION. Due to neglect under the German occupation, war damages, and the ravages of tank treads, Austrian highways and highway bridges were almost completely useless at the war's end. Since 1945 the government has put almost all federal highways back into service, despite shortages of personnel and equipment. 220 bridges were destroyed during the war. All of these are now open to traffic, 78 having been completely rebuilt. The federal highway system at present consists of some 4400 kilometers of roads, and by 1951 the government expects to expand its jurisdiction to include 8100 km. Manpower shortages have now been solved, and all necessary materials for road repair are available domestically, with the exception of bitumen. The government's highway maintenance program faces severe financial handicaps. The annual cost of repairs for 8000 km of highways is estimated at 150 million schillings. Plans to add 200 km to the highway system every year after 1951 will entail additional expenditures of between 200 million and 300 million schillings annually.

The German occupation authorities began the construction of autobahnen in Austria, but these were left unfinished. Questions of ownership have left the future of the autobahnen unsettled.

POWDER METALLURGY CONGRESS IN GRAZ. Sixty representatives of the United States and European nations attended an International Congress on powder metallurgy held in Graz from July 12 to 17. This was the first international meeting to deal with the increasingly important subject of powder metallurgy. Some of the most important developments in this field have originated in Austria. Cutting tools and machine parts from powdered metals have been produced in Austria for some time, and the Plansee works in Reutte, Tyrol, are the world's largest center for powder metallurgy. The U.S. was represented at the Congress by Prof. G. J. Comstock, Stevens Institute of Technology; Dr. P. Schwarzkopf, American Electro Metal Corp.; Prof. J. Wulff, Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

AUSTRIAN COIN OF EARLY ORIGIN STILL IN USE. A silver taler stamped with a likeness of the Empress Maria Theresa and first minted in 1753 is still legal tender in some countries of eastern Africa, the eastern Mediterranean and the Arabian peninsula. The Vienna mint produced 247 million of these coins between 1753 and 1931. Their manufacture was resumed immediately after the war. The taler sells domestically for 25 schillings. Its silver content is equal to 12 schillings, and its cost of manufacture about 70 groschen. Ethiopia, long one of the largest consumers of the silver taler, in 1945 instituted its own dollar as the standard currency; nonetheless, the silver taler continues to be popular with the Ethiopian people.

THREAT TO SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN AUSTRIAN UNIVERSITIES. The two chemical research institutes of the University of Vienna, as well as

a number of similar research laboratories associated with Austrian universities, will be forced to curtail or suspend operations if funds are not made available to them before fall. At present, the universities are unable to afford even the demonstration lectures used to teach scientific subjects, and have had to dispense with laboratory courses. Contacts with foreign researchers have not yet been renewed, and scientific works published abroad since 1939 are largely unobtainable. No funds are available for attendance at scientific conventions, one of the most important media for the exchange of recent findings. The inability of Austrian scientists to attend the recent Congress of Pure and Applied Chemistry at Charleroi, Belgium, is a case in point. A decade of involuntary isolation has left Austria with a reserve of teachers, students and practitioners with a solid grounding in the sciences which is going to waste unless means are found to bring and keep them abreast of recent developments in their fields. In this situation, there has been a marked tendency for Austrian scientists to go abroad in an effort to capitalize on their skills. Austrian schools of higher learning are attempting to remedy the situation by reestablishing contact with institutions devoted to the support of research, so that Austria can once again take its place in international scientific investigation.

DEVELOPMENTS IN AUSTRIAN BOOK CRISIS. Following the refusal of the American-British Joint Export-Import Agency (JEIA) at Frankfort to permit the entry of Austrian books into Bizonia in return for German goods, a group of Austrian publishers under the leadership of the Communist-controlled Globus firm have entered into an agreement for the export of books to Eastern Germany. Through the German Economic Commission of the Soviet Zone, Russian authorities have agreed to purchase $1 million worth of Austrian books. Twenty per cent of the payment would be in the form of books published in Eastern Germany, the balance in other commodities. Austrian exports would be in the following categories: scientific works, 15%; political works, 15%; popular scientific works and books on art, 15%; periodicals, 5%; fiction, 50%.

Although the communist-controlled press insists that no stipulations will be made as to the political bias of the books, non-communist publishers in Austria feel that works with other than a pro-Soviet orientation will not be welcome. For this reason, most non-communist publishers expect to be forced out of business unless the American and British authorities in Germany revise their ruling. Some funds may be forthcoming from the U.S. for the purchase of Austrian books, but according to the newspaper Arbeiter Zeitung of Vienna such funds will not amount to more than $95 000. Furthermore, they would be used only to purchase translations of American works. Non-communist writers are faced with what appears to be an impasse: on the one hand, their books will almost undoubtedly not be sold in Eastern Germany, and only translations of American authors will go to Western Germany, while the small Austrian market would not make publication of their works profitable. This of course applies especially to younger writers, whose situation appears to be virtually hopeless.

AUSTRIAN SCHOOL STATISTICS. The most recent figures show that there are at present 4237 primary schools and 585 secondary schools operating in Austria, with an enrollment during the past school year of 790 167 children. There were 7828 school-age children who did not attend classes during the past year: 1713 because of permanent physical or mental disability, and the balance due to temporary illnesses and malnutrition. There were 28 000 teachers in public schools, and 959 private school teachers. Nine damaged Vienna schools will be back in service for the fall semester, but shortages will continue to require that schools be operated in two shifts. Of the 486 public school buildings in Vienna, 84 are still not usable because of damages, 26 are used to house occupation offices and refugees, and 55 are being used as government offices.

FORMER AUSTRIANS TEACHING IN VIENNA. Three prominent former Austrian scholars have returned to teach at the summer session of the University of Vienna's Faculty of Law & Political Sciences. They are Prof. Hayek, well-known author of "The Road to Serfdom"; Prof. Haberler, of Harvard; and Prof. Morgenstern, of Princeton.

SCHOOL FOR TRADE WITH EASTERN AND SOUTHEASTERN EUROPE. The Academy for World Trade (Hochschule fuer Welthandel) recently graduated seven

students from the first two-year course of its Research Institute for Eastern and Southeastern Trade. The courses, given under the direction of Dr. Winkler, replace and are similar to those formerly offered at the Consular Academy. Students are provided with all knowledge necessary to work for the intensification of trade with Eastern and Southeastern European nations, and are required to learn in addition to their native tongue Russian and one other Eastern European language. Many of the lectures were given by diplomatic representatives of foreign countries. A second course will be initiated whenever an enrollment of 50 students has been obtained. The Academy's courses are also open to non-Austrians.

ANTI-RACISM EXHIBIT AT VIENNA NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM. The Ministry of Education, under Dr. Felix Hurdes, will sponsor an exhibit this fall at the State Museum of Natural History in Vienna, designed to expose the falsity of Nazi racial doctrines. The display has been organized by Dr. Michel, of the Museum, with the assistance of Drs. Zlabinger and Routil, anthropologists. The exhibit will show how the Nazis falsified and distorted anthropological findings, and will aim particularly at disproving Master Race-Slave Race theories. The exhibition's emphasis will be mainly anthropological, but it will also demonstrate historically and geographically the rise and fall of civilizations, and the fact that international dominance based on suppression has always been shortlived. Most particularly, the exhibit will show that great cultural achievement has never been the product of a pure "Aryan" race, and has always represented a complex of contributions from many peoples.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR VIENNA. In January 1940 Vienna's population comprised 1 843 600 persons. By July 1945 this figure had dropped to 1 323 758. The number of people in Vienna had again risen to 1 575 452 by the end of 1945, and recent estimates place the population at not far short of the 1940 total.

Vienna underwent 52 bombing raids, in the course of which 8365 residents and 1103 non-residents were killed. On February 7, 1945, alone, 1884 persons were killed. During the final battle for the city in April 1945, 2649 residents and 239 non-residents were killed.

REVIEW OF 1947-48 STAATSOPER SEASON. The Vienna State Opera, during the past season, in its two houses (Theater an der Wien and Volksoper), gave 103 performances of works by Mozart, 85 by Verdi, 68 by Johann Strauss, 65 by Puccini, 61 by Offenbach, 46 by Wagner, 25 by Richard Strauss, 11 by Hindemith, and 4 by Gottfried Einem. "The Magic Flute" was the most popular opera, with 33 performances, followed by "Figaro" with 27 and "Aida" with 25. Johann Strauss' operetta "The Gypsy Baron" received 37 performances, while "Freischuetz" and "Orpheus" were played 29 times each.

1948-49 OPERA SEASON. For its forthcoming season, the Vienna State Opera has prepared new productions of Bizet's "Carmen", "Tarassenko" by Salmhofer, Puccini's "Turandot", Pfitzner's "Palestrina", Verdi's "Macbeth" and Wagner's "Meistersinger". The Vienna People's Opera (Volksoper) which is devoted mainly to light and comic opera, will produce "The Merry Wives of Windsor", "One Night in Vienna", "André Chenier", "Ritter Patzmann", "Die Schweigsame Frau", and a new version of Offenbach's "Pariser Leben".

ENGLISH CONDUCTOR OPENS GRAZ FESTIVAL. The Music Festival of Graz was opened with a concert of works by Beethoven, Elgar and Brahms conducted by Sir Adrian Boult, Director of the B.B.C. Orchestra.

CREDITS NEEDED FOR AUSTRIAN FILM INDUSTRY. Austria's motion picture industry, the only producers of non-government-controlled films in this part of the world, is still suffering from a lack of equipment and funds. Much of the country's film equipment has been declared German property, and seized. Attempts to attract foreign capital have for the most part resulted only in threats of monopoly. Meanwhile, a large reservoir of talent and experience awaits the foreign investor, and Austrian producers are hoping to interest the American film industry in their potentialities.

REGULATIONS GOVERNING TRAVEL IN AUSTRIA. R. F. Mattesich of the Austrian State Tourist Dept. has released the following information concerning travel regulations in Austria. Vienna and the western occupation zones are now open for travel for either business or

pleasure. A number of hotels have been designated to serve travellers from abroad, and will provide visitors with a 4500-calory diet of food purchased outside Austria with funds derived from the tourist trade. To obtain a passport and military permit, visitors should have their travel agents cable or write air mail to one of the official hotels. Confirmations of reservation should be sent by the travel agent to Rudolf F. Mattesich, Austrian State Tourist Department, 50 West 10 St., New York 11, N.Y. asking for a letter of allocation. The hotel reservation and letter of allocation must be taken to the passport bureau when applying for the passport. Passport, hotel confirmation and letter of allocation should be sent directly to the Military Permit Section, Department of National Defense, Civil Affairs Division, Washington 25, D.C. Military permits are valid for the American and British Zones, Vienna, and for transit through the French Zone. Visitors to the French Zone, or who wish to spend more than two days in transit through the French Zone, need a French permit, which is most easily obtained in Paris.

Business visitors to the American and British Zones must, along with their application for a permit, submit a statement describing the nature of business to be transacted, naming the persons or firms to be visited, and stating the expected date of arrival and length of stay in Austria. Hotel reservations should be made in advance.

Visitors wishing to take their automobiles to Austria need merely say so at the time of applying for passport and permit. Gasoline is plentiful, and ration books are issued to foreign visitors. The westernmost point of ration book issue is the Vorarlberger Reisebureau, Kirchplatz 1, Feldkirch.

STREPTOMYCIN FLOWN TO AUSTRIA. As part of the American program for aid to Europe, 10 000 grams of streptomycin were recently flown to Vienna from a pharmaceutical warehouse in St. Louis.

AMERICAN CHARITY TO AUSTRIA. The "Save the Children Federation" has announced a program of relief to Austria's children. The Federation's Austrian program will be along the lines developed in its work in four other European countries. The Federation has already begun shipment of food, clothing, shoes, layettes and school supplies to Salzburg and the American and British sectors of Vienna. Recipients are selected from among case histories provided by the Austrian Ministry of Social Welfare. A plan has been set up whereby American individuals may sponsor an Austrian child or group of school children through the Federation.

"American Relief to Austria" is also sponsoring an adoption plan, under which 1262 Austrian children have so far been adopted by Americans. Foster parents pledge themselves to send at least one package a month to the child or family adopted. Food and clothing of an estimated value of more than $250 000 have already been shipped under this program.

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